

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sampling valve placeable on a container ~~valve~~ for sterile sampling of a liquid sample from ~~a~~ the container, comprising a valve body (1) with a valve chamber (2), a sample inlet (6) in the valve chamber (2) surrounded by a first valve seat (7), a first valve plug (5a) for closing the sample inlet (6) through abutment against the first valve seat (7), an outlet (8) from the valve chamber (2), a cleaning inlet (9) in the valve chamber (2) for disinfection fluid, a second valve seat (10) and a second valve plug (5b), ~~characterized in that the outlet (8) is positioned between the two valve seats (7, 10), and that the second valve seat (10) and the second valve plug (5b) are positioned in such a manner that the second valve plug (5b)~~ the valve plugs being mutually independently moveable between opened and closed positions, wherein the outlet is positioned between the two valve seats, and the second valve seat and the second valve plug through abutment against the second valve seat (10) cuts off the inflow of disinfection fluid in an area (2b) of the valve chamber (2) at the outlet (8).

Claim 2 (currently amended): A valve according to claim 1, in which the valve chamber (2) is formed by means of an axial bore, at one end of which the sample inlet (6) is placed coaxially, the first valve plug (5a) is axially movable by displacement of a first valve spindle (4), which is coaxial to the bore, and the second valve plug (5b) is annular and surrounds

the first valve spindle (4), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second valve plug (5b) through abutment against the second valve seat defines a cleaning chamber in the valve chamber.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A valve according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, in which a second, hollow valve spindle (3) is provided, said spindle surrounding the first valve spindle (4) coaxially, and in which the first valve plug (5a) by displacement of the first valve spindle (4) into abutment against the first valve seat (7) cuts off the sample inlet, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second valve plug (5b) by displacement of the second valve spindle (3) into abutment against the second valve seat (10) cuts off the connection between the cleaning inlet (9) and the outlet (8).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A valve according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the exterior of the valve plugs (5a, 5b) is formed by a single flexible member (5).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A valve according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flexible member (5) comprises a bellows of a substantially not ductile material.

Claim 6: Cancelled.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 7 (new): A sampling valve placeable on a container for sterile sampling of a liquid sample from the container, comprising a valve body with a valve chamber, a sample inlet in the valve chamber surrounded by a first valve seat, a first valve plug for closing the sample inlet through abutment against the first valve seat, an outlet from the valve chamber, a cleaning inlet in the valve chamber for disinfection fluid, a second valve seat and a second valve plug, the valve plugs being mutually independently moveable between opened and closed positions, wherein the outlet is positioned between the two valve seats, and the second valve seat and the second valve plug are positioned in such a manner that the second valve plug through abutment against the second valve seat cuts off inflow of disinfection fluid in an area of the valve chamber at the outlet, and wherein the outlet from a mouth in the valve chamber, bordering on the second valve seat, extends away from an end of the valve body, in which the sample inlet is positioned.

Claim 8 (new): A valve according to claim 7, in which the valve chamber is formed by means of an axial bore, at one end of which the sample inlet is placed coaxially, the first valve plug is axially movable by displacement of a first valve spindle, which is coaxial to the bore, and the second valve plug is annular and surrounds the first valve spindle, wherein the second valve plug through abutment against the second valve seat defines a cleaning chamber in the valve chamber.

Claim 9 (new): A valve according to claim 8, in which a second, hollow valve spindle is provided, said spindle surrounding the first valve spindle coaxially, and in which the

first valve plug by displacement of the first valve spindle into abutment against the first valve seat cuts off the sample inlet, wherein the second valve plug by displacement of the second valve spindle into abutment against the second valve seat cuts off the connection between the cleaning inlet and the outlet.

Claim 10 (new): A valve according to claim 7, wherein the exterior of the valve plugs is formed by a single flexible member.

Claim 11 (new): A valve according to claim 10, wherein the flexible member comprises a bellows of a substantially not ductile material.

Claim 12 (new): Use of a sampling valve placeable on a container for sterile sampling of a liquid sample from the container, said sampling valve comprising a valve body with a valve chamber, a sample inlet in the valve chamber surrounded by a first valve seat, a first valve plug for closing the sample inlet through abutment against the first valve seat, an outlet from the valve chamber, a cleaning inlet in the valve chamber for disinfection fluid, a second valve seat and a second valve plug, the valve plugs being mutually independently moveable between opened and closed positions, wherein the outlet is positioned between the two valve seats, and the second valve seat and the second valve plug are positioned in such a manner that the second valve plug through abutment against the second valve seat cuts off inflow of disinfection fluid in an area of the valve chamber at the outlet, whereby the sample inlet is

Preliminary Amendment
Filed: April 25, 2006
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q94636

connected with a container for sampling from said container, the cleaning inlet is connected with a source of disinfection fluid, and whereby the first and second valve plug is raised in turn from their respective valve seats for allowing at one time a sample of liquid from the container to enter the area of the valve chamber at the outlet and exit the valve chamber through the outlet, and allowing at another time disinfection fluid to enter the area of the valve chamber at the outlet and exit the valve chamber through the outlet, respectively.

Claim 13 (new): Use of a sampling valve in accordance with claim 12, whereby the valve is provided with its out-let extending from a mouth in the valve chamber, bordering on the second valve seat, and extending away from an end of the valve body, in which the sample inlet is positioned.